43   Mary Seacole's Hut? : "Illustrated London News" and Blackwood Sketch
Dr Douglas J Austin   43   [TWC 33(1) p5 2015]

My list of images from the "*Illustrated London News*" for 1853-1856 includes "*The Balaclava Railway - The Bazaar at Kadikoi*", published on 12th May, 1855. This fine engraving, probably from a drawing by the ILN correspondent and talented artist Joseph Archer Crowe (1825-1896), shows the early horse-drawn railway near the stream at Kadikoi close to a group of sutler's huts - much favoured by those with money to spend. When magnified, the top-left comer of that image includes a hut with a flag which appears to read as "**CRAWFORD**". Further off to the left rear is a group of huts, one of which flies a flag which appears to read as **"?????? and DAY"**. It is possible that this represents Mary Seacole's establishment in the Crimea soon after her arrival on the transport "*Albatross*" on 19th March, 1855 (per Tony Margrave, This Journal, 32(2), 13-19, 2015). [Thomas Day was Mary's business partner.]

For comparison, I present Lady Alicia Blackwood's sketch, from her book "*A Narrative of Personal Experiences & Impressions during a Residence on the Bosphorus throughout the Crimean War*" (1881), showing "*Mrs Seacole's hut*" on the other side of the railway line from "*Major Cox's hut*". [*The latter refers to Captain (Brevet Major) John William Cox (1821-1901), 13th Foot; assigned to the Land Transport Corps from 25th September, 1855 to 31st August, 1856.*] As Lady Alicia put it:- "*Before closing this chapter mention must be made of the far-famed Mrs. Seacole, whose dwelling was quite in the vicinity of "Zebra Vicarage.*" As the railway from Balaklava to headquarters was only a stone's throw from us on the one side, she had wisely pitched her tent equally close to it on the opposite side ; for the line being used for the transport of goods and war material, from the port to the front, doubtless she had a view to facilitating the transport of her stores also to her warehouse." That location is consistent with the ILN image.